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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 30, 1959



MEMORANDUM OF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT  
(Tuesday, April 28, 1959)

1. I first took up with the President the Records of Actions of the two NSC meetings on Thursday, 23 April. I informed him as to the regular meeting, there was no problem and I would approve it for him. As to the Special Meeting I indicated that there were two points: First, as to paragraph 3 of the draft, both State and the JCS had some trouble with the language which had been circulated. I said to the President that it had been my understanding that he had authorized advanced planning regarding the possible use of the reinforced battalion under Alternative 1 of the study discussed at the meeting but that it was very difficult to define language to convey this thought without clouding the necessity to review and decide with respect to other uses of force. The President felt this should not constitute any difficulty but inasmuch as the planning was going forward by General Norstad he felt that the language should provide that any advanced planning regarding alternative uses of force would be subject to review and decision in the light of circumstances as they develop.

I then pointed out to the President that with respect to paragraph 6c we had provided in the draft language that the Murphy Group should make periodic progress reports to the President through the Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. The State Department had raised a question about this, feeling that the report should be made by the State Department to the President. The President observed that he didn't see why the State Department should object to having the reports of this Group come through the Special Assistant but then recognized the importance of protocol to the Department. I told him that I felt that having the reports come through the Special Assistant would expedite the work of the Group and would insure a better reporting procedure for the purposes of the President. In any event, after some further discussion the President said that he felt that he would like to have the Special Assistant made a member of the Group make periodic progress reports to the President without seeking to indicate the channel. This he approved.

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2. I suggested to the President that it would be appropriate for John Foster Dulles' letter of April 23 with respect to the NSC Resolution to be read to the Council at the next meeting. The President agreed and asked me to take care of it.

3. I then spoke to the President about the so-called "white paper" which would reflect the elements of basic national security policy in the event the President chose to use it or otherwise to make it public. I told him that we had proceeded with some of the work in the NSC Staff. However, I said that it was my judgment that the work could better be done by someone who was in government and cleared but who had not himself wrestled with the precise language of the NSC paper. I asked then whether he had any objection to my asking Mr. Moos and Commander Williams to attempt a draft with the understanding that it should not interfere with the regular duties. The President expressed concern about such interference pointing out that he had two speeches coming up in the next couple of weeks and he did not know how much had been done on them. I said to the President that I would make it clear to Mr. Moos that the work on the "white paper" was absolutely subordinate to anything he was doing for the President. The President approved this procedure.

4. I reported to the President that the Secretary of State had named Mr. Robert D. Murphy, Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs, as a member of the "5412/2 Group."

5. I then reported to the President with respect to the question of whether the proposed phased plan on German Reunification, European Security and Berlin involved any deviation from the 1957 disarmament package policy. I reminded the President that at his direction I had asked State and Defense to report on any such deviations and that their response had only been received on April 26. The agreed memorandum from the Departments to me reflected the fact that two elements of the 1957 disarmament package have been incorporated into the phased plan, one relating to the limitation and reduction of armed forces and armaments, and the other regarding safeguards against the possibility of surprise attack. I indicated that the Departments had stated that the inclusion of these two elements in the phased plan would in their view be advantageous to the Western negotiating position and that in this context the withdrawal

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of the two elements from the 1957 package is acceptable. I suggested to the President that he would probably not wish to make any change in this approach but that if the negotiations went forward we were in effect making a change in the 1957 policy and that it should be done consciously. The President indicated he understood this.

In connection with disarmament, I then informed the President that General Goodpaster told me about Mr. Herter's conversation with the President with respect to a disarmament policy review and a recommendation that a study be undertaken in this connection. I asked the President whether he would like the NSC to note his approval of such a study and perhaps go further and approve the terms of reference. My point was that if his approval and decision were made in the corporate body of the NSC all those participants would feel more firmly bound. The President indicated that he thought this was a good idea but would first want to study the terms of reference. I told him that they had not come in to him but would soon be in with such comments as I found it desirable to make.

6. I then informed the President that I had arranged a special meeting of the Council on April 30 for 45 minutes to consider the Comparative Evaluation Group Study on Submarine and Antisubmarine Warfare and that the regular meeting would convene at 9:45.

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8. I then informed the President that a request had come to Mr. Merriam to participate in a forum of the American Political Science Association's annual meeting in September on the subject of national policy making techniques. Upon examining the documents, Mr. Merriam felt that this matter was strictly within the cognizance of the Special Assistant for National Security Affairs. I indicated to the President that I thought it would be useful for me to participate in such a discussion. After some discussion he agreed.

In this connection I mentioned to the President the Javits Bill and Senator Jackson's War College speech. I also referred to Senator Jackson's announced plans to conduct an investigation of the National Security Council in July. The President expressed his displeasure at these efforts to interfere with the National Security Council machinery and made, in emphatic terms, an observation that there would be no investigation of the National Security Council.

  
Gordon Gray  
Special Assistant to the President

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